It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to share with you the joy of recognition for work and discoveries which were made possible mainly by the support of the space program of NASA. My association with NASA programs spans four decades.

I am still grateful for the opportunity I was given in 1960 to start the development of x-ray telescopes by the late John Lindsay, then at Goddard. John Naugle played a crucial role as a sponsor of "Uhuru," a small satellite launched in 1970 that revolutionized x-ray astronomy. Such opportunities and responsibilities would not have been given to a young man in Italy. It is a glory or our country that good ideas can sometime prevail.

As some of you may know, I was the first director of the Space Telescope Science Institute. I had the opportunity to gather there an outstanding staff. Science operations of Hubble were novel in approach with a strong heritage from x-ray astronomy. End-to-end data systems, pipeline data reduction, calibration, and archiving developed for Hubble became the model for operations of the largest telescopes on the ground or in space. Particularly significant was the educational and outreach program of Hubble which reached a large constituency. I certainly want to recognize the glorious recovery mission which saved Hubble and for which I worked in partnership with Joe Rothenberg, HST program manager and then Director of GSFC.

The same methodology used for Hubble is being utilized for CHANDRA, the most advanced x-ray observatory in the world. I was lucky enough to be involved in 1976 in making the proposal with Harvey Tananbaum, in following its construction, and in utilizing its data. It took almost forty years to realize the dream of an x-ray telescope of that class, but it was well worth it. I wish to thank Dr. Marty Weisskoph of MSFC for his untiring support of the CHANDRA mission.

High energy processes play a determinant role in the dynamics and evolution of the universe. X-rays which can be focused by telescopes give us a uniquely powerful tool to study high energy phenomena. CHANDRA is a billion times more sensitive than the Sco-X1 rocket instrument. I certainly hope that NASA's commitment to x-ray astronomy will continue in the future.

Over the last few years I have become interested in research opportunities utilizing the International Space Sation. Now that such a large commitment of effort and capital has been made, I believe it is our responsibility as scientists to do all we can to maximize good research within the physical and financial constraints. Many people in NASA and outside believe that an independent Space Station Science Institute working in partnership with NASA could provide the drive for excellence and scientific leadership which is required. Maybe you can't get rid of me yet.